

OPENING STATEMENT

**CHAIRMAN DEBORAH PRYCE,
RULES SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PROCESS**

**JOINT HEARING ON
“LINKING PROGRAM FUNDING TO PERFORMANCE RESULTS”**

SEPTEMBER 19, 2001

Thank you Chairman Horn for calling the joint hearing of our two subcommittees to order. I am very pleased to be part of this collaborative endeavor, and I look forward to today's discussion about this important government-wide management initiative, often referred to as “performance budgeting”. Performance budgeting, or the process of using program effectiveness information for making funding decisions, has long been in the making but has yet to be fully realized.

Most of us here today are remarkably aware of the dilemma that is posed by the need to use limited resources to pay for seemingly limitless demands, with no real relief in sight. We therefore recognize both the need to “stretch the taxpayer dollar” and the need to ensure that government programs reach as many of their intended beneficiaries as possible. Not to mention that increased effectiveness and efficiency is the business of good government.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process, I am encouraged by recent efforts to establish a more meaningful link between the 1993 Government and Performance Results Act (GPRA) and the budget process. Some may recall that the purpose behind the Congressional Budget Act, which the Rules Committee considered and reported in 1974, was to increase Congressional coordination and control of budgetary and fiscal decision-making. It makes sense, then, that the 1993 GPRA law – in its promise to improve federal program effectiveness, congressional decision-making, and the internal management of the federal government – should build upon the goals of the Budget Act.

As Chairman Horn has noted, this hearing will provide an opportunity to spotlight the efforts of the executive branch to better link funding decisions to actual program performance. This includes OMB's development of the "Program Assessment Rating Tool", or the PART, which we look forward to hearing more about today. Furthermore, if performance budgeting is going to succeed, then we should also expect to see improvements in areas such as the evaluation capacity of agencies and the quality of the program information collected and used by agencies.

Although many of these performance budgeting efforts seem to focus on executive branch activities, I will conclude by saying that as government performance rating tools and measures become more and more reliable, Congress will be finally responsible for using and integrating this information into our budgetary and fiscal decision-making.

I am grateful for the participation of all of our witnesses today, and I would now like to recognize our first panel. Both of these men should be credited for their tireless efforts in moving the federal government towards greater accountability and effectiveness – not always an easy task – and, of course, for their exceptional work in making performance budgeting a reality. It is my honor to introduce the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Mitch Daniels, and the Comptroller General, David Walker. Welcome gentlemen, and thank you for being here.